

Serial No.: 09/743,143

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended. Claim 6 has been added, and claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-5 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Miyasaka et al.* Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended, and claim 6 added, to emphasize a decoding device/method having a structure for producing a new packet including information indicating a length of the data corresponding to the access unit which is a minimum data unit decodable individually from a bit stream including a plurality of packets.

In the case of a skip regeneration operation, the invention as recited in amended claims 1 and 5 reads the plurality of new packets from the storage section so as to skip at least one of the plurality of the new packets, by using information indicating the length of the data corresponding to the access unit. Thus, in the case of a skip regeneration operation, it is not necessary to search a leading position of an access unit. Consequently, the present invention as recited in amended claims 1 and 5 has an effect to implement a skip regeneration operation with a smooth and high speed manner.

In the case of a freeze reproduction operation, the invention as recited in amended claim 4 and new claim 6 repeatedly reads at least one of the plurality of new packets from storage using the information indicating the length of the data corresponding to the access unit. Consequently, the present invention as recited in claims 4 and 6 has an effect of eliminating the need of a large capacity buffer memory.

Miyasaka et al. discloses a structure for storing image data by dividing into a predetermined format packet by the packet assembly part 20 when code processing is

Serial No.: 09/743,143

performed for a respective frame. According to *Miyasaka et al.*, a bit stream of image data is stored by dividing it into many packets, and specially reproduced by extracting designated packets in which subject image data has been stored.

That is, *Miyasaka et al.* does not disclose the structure as described in the amended claims discussed above, wherein either a skip regeneration operation or a freeze reproduction operation is implemented by regenerating a bit stream so that access unit data is to be included in each packet, by using information indicating a length of the access unit data included in the packets.

Thus, *Miyasaka et al.* can not perform a skip reproduction operation in a smooth and high speed manner compared to the present invention as in claims 1 and 5. Further, *Miyasaka et al.* can not perform an effect of eliminating the needs of a large capacity buffer memory in the case of a freeze reproduction operation as in claims 4 and 6.

For at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.


Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Serial No.: 09/743,143

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP


Mark D. Saralino
Reg. No. 34,243

DATE: November 4, 2004

The Keith Building
1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113
C:\GENYAMA\yamad749.amd.wpd